

*From* WAR *to* PEACE

ANNUAL REPORT  
*of the*  
NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS  
ASSOCIATION

APRIL 30th, 1919

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1919  
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OFFICES—409-410 RYRIE BUILDING  
TORONTO

*The EDITH and LORNE PIERCE  
COLLECTION of CANADIANA*



*Queen's University at Kingston*

*From* WAR *to* PEACE

ANNUAL REPORT  
*of the*  
NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS  
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*Federation for Community Service*

OFFICES—409-410 RYRIE BUILDING  
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ANNUAL REPORT

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**EXECUTIVE OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*of the*  
NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS  
ASSOCIATION,  
1919-20**

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Hon. Pres.....	Rev. Peter Bryce.
President.....	Rev. M. C. MacLean.
Vice-Pres. ....	Rev. P. J. Bench.
2d Vice-Pres. ....	Miss H. D. McCollum.
Treasurer. ....	Mrs. N. BrockWilkins.
General Secretary .....	Mr. F. N. Stapleford.

**Committee:**—Mr. Robert E. Mills,  
Dr. Sturgeon Stewart,  
Archdeacon Ingles,  
Mrs. J. Howard Stowe,  
Rev. Robert Cochrane,  
Rev. E. G. D. Freeman.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS ASSOCIATION

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS ASSOCIATION

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### FOREWORD

The Neighborhood Workers Association had its beginning in 1912 in what was known as "The West District Social Conference." This Conference consisted of a group of workers meeting periodically at the University Settlement. Later a similar organization was formed at Evangelia Settlement, and a few months following the "Central Case Conference" was created, meeting at Fred Victor Mission. The executives of these Conferences took united action on several occasions, provoking criticism on the ground of lack of authority. It was, therefore, considered advisable to call a meeting of the members of the organizations already mentioned with the members of another Conference now in existence at East Toronto. This gathering took place in the City Hall on 22nd of January, 1914.

This gathering decided to appoint a Committee charged with the following task:

1. To draw up a Constitution which might be acceptable to each of the local associations.
2. To consider the advisability of having some central representative organization, and to prepare a constitution for such an organization.

Both these constitutions were presented at the meeting held on the 20th of February, 1914, and adopted with some slight alterations.

The first meeting of the Council was held on April 18th, 1914, consisting of representatives from the local organizations.

At the fourth meeting held on the 2nd of June representatives from various city wide activities were present and have remained members of the Council since that date. On June 23rd the officers of the Council for the current year were elected.

At a meeting between representatives of the Board of Control, the House of Industry, the Social Service Commission, and the United Conferences, now known as the Neighborhood Workers

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Association, an agreement was reached in regard to the distribution of out-door relief. The recommendations with some amendments were adopted by the City Council on October 16th, 1914.

Other associations, such as St. Clair, Lansdowne, etc., were formed until the city was fully covered by nine organizations, each meeting regularly and dealing with its own local relief and social problems. United city action was secured by the Central Council, composed of representatives from the local associations with the addition of representatives from organizations having city wide activity.

The N.W.A. has rendered fine service in the realm of out-door relief and constructive social service. One of the best features of its work has been the splendid co-operation it has created and fostered, and the overlapping it has eliminated. In its membership may be found men and women of all creeds, united for public welfare. The utmost harmony has prevailed in its councils.

A serious handicap was removed in the appointment of F. N. Stapleford, M.A. as General Secretary in June, 1918. The Council for some time had realized the impossibility of meeting the demands of the city effectively without the leadership of an executive officer. The Rotary Club, through financial aid, made it possible for the council to appoint Mr. Stapleford, an appointment that has been eminently justified by the achievements of the past year. Mr. Stapleford is assisted by an excellent staff of workers.

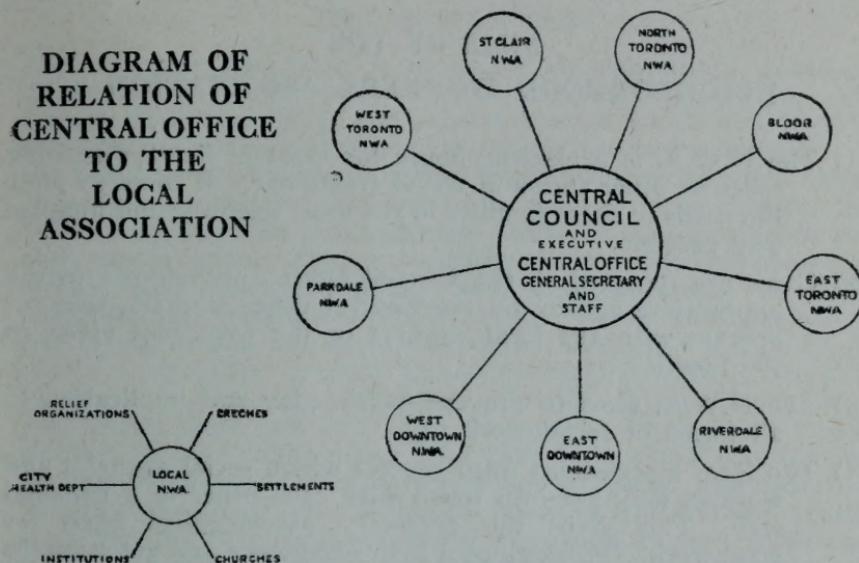
The future of the N.W.A. is full of promise. The work of the past years has laid the foundation for greater service. It is not too much to say that the organization is fitted to cope efficiently with any emergency that may arise in Toronto in the field of social service.

PETER BRYCE.

*"To maintain normal family life, to restore it when it has been interfered with, to create conditions more and more favorable to it, is the underlying object of all our social work."*

# NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS ASSOCIATION

DIAGRAM OF  
RELATION OF  
CENTRAL OFFICE  
TO THE  
LOCAL  
ASSOCIATION



The city is mapped out into nine districts. In each of these the social workers are organized as a group and meet regularly. Each of the district organizations elects representatives to the Central Council, which also contains direct representatives from city wide organizations. The district associations conduct case conferences and confer on the problems which come up in their work. The Central Council discusses questions of city wide interest and under its direction is the Central Office with the General Secretary and Staff. The Central Council is composed entirely of social workers in direct contact with conditions.

There are 187 welfare organizations affiliated with the N.W.A. The Central Council has a total membership of forty-nine. In the local associations are Creches, Settlements, Women's Organizations, Relief Societies, Missions, Health Agencies, Churches, etc.

*"It ain't the guns nor armament, nor funds that they  
can pay,  
But the close co-operation that makes them win the day.  
It ain't the individual, nor armies as a whole, but  
The everlasting team-play of every blooming soul." -Kipling.*

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### **AIMS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS ASSOCIATION**

- (1) The N.W.A. is a clearing house for cases of families needing relief or other forms of social treatment. It aims to meet the needs of these families in the most scientific and humane way possible.
- (2) Cases are reported to the Central Office and referred to the appropriate agency by the Central Office workers, who co-operate with the local workers in the treatment given to the families.
- (3) The N.W.A. aims to prevent overlapping and duplication in all forms of social work.
- (4) The local associations form centres where social agencies and workers may get into touch with each other in a personal way. This gives the necessary psychological basis for good work. Workers pool their experience and get stimulus and new ideas for their own particular tasks.
- (5) The N.W.A. calls for team work and engenders the co-operative spirit.
- (6) It seeks to raise constantly the standards of social case work. The standards of the best workers become the aim of all.
- (7) The N.W.A. seeks to inform the public as to the conditions which exist in the city and suggest methods of social action. All social problems are, in essence, family problems.

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### **STAFF OF CENTRAL OFFICE**

F. N. STAPLEFORD . . . . . General Secretary.

MISS O. M. SNYDER . . . . . Assistant Secretary; Case Secretary,  
West Down-Town, Parkdale, West  
Toronto Districts.

MISS M. E. MCPHEDRAN . . . Case Secretary.  
Riverdale and East Toronto Dist.

MISS E. M. CORBMAN . . . Case Secretary,  
East Down Town and North Toron-  
to Districts.

MISS M. FLEMING . . . . . Case Secretary.  
St. Clair and Bloor Districts.

MISS M. COLLVER . . . . . Office Manager.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS ASSOCIATION

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### THE HUMAN SIDE

Unemployment made it necessary for this family, consisting of the father, mother and six children to have assistance. The man, a skilled mechanic, had a good position which he left of his own free will to work in Munitions, where the pay was larger. In the Fall, he was off work for several weeks owing to his wife's illness, as he was unable at that time to get anyone in to care for her. When the Munition plants closed down, he was unable to find other employment. They managed on their savings and the money received from an occasional day's work until the middle of winter, when the family all developed influenza. Before the breadwinner was strong he was out again looking for work, but still unable to obtain a permanent position though everything possible was done to secure this for him. It seemed advisable to give the family a loan to tide them over until such time as there would be a regular income. As the children had been kept from school because they had not the proper clothes, a Society was interested, and undertook to outfit the older children so that they could attend school. Shortly after this the breadwinner secured a position at very small pay, which he is still holding, but is constantly looking out for work in his own line where the remuneration will be greater, and then he feels that he will be able to pay back the loan.

Sickness, one of the great foes of Bank accounts, came to a comfortable little home many months ago and laid low the mother of the family. Much of the time she has spent in the Hospital, but it seemed wiser to have her taken home and have a nurse provided. The husband's earnings are not sufficient to bear all the extra expense consequent on the long illness. Help must be forth coming or the invalid will not have the necessary care, but the question of giving help to a family of this type is an extremely difficult task. A Club composed of women of the same nationality was approached, and they agreed to send a visitor regularly and assist in the many little ways that might appear, keeping always in mind the family's desire to be independent.

Mrs. F., a deserted wife, came to the office with a letter of introduction from a social agency in another city. She had gone with her husband to this city, and after being there a few months, he assaulted her and then left the city. She was obliged to go to a social organization for assistance and they did all in their power to locate the missing husband. The N.W.A. was asked to look up the family's Toronto record for this agency, and on Mrs. F's return to Toronto, a summary of the work done by the other agency was given and also suggestions as to other steps that might be taken. The whole situation was discussed with a good friend of Mrs. F's here, and on her return to the city she was advised to see this friend. He has now taken full charge of Mrs. F's affairs and has been to see the local police and arranged that an order for

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protection would be taken out, should Mr. F. ever return and attempt to abuse his wife.

Most cases of desertion mean also, non-support, but in this case, the husband, while he has left his family, makes a weekly contribution towards the support of his four children. Many women are able to manage on a like income, but this woman feels that she must supplement her income by working several days a week, consequently the problem has arisen as to what shall be done with the children during the mother's absence. On investigation, the need appears to be not so much for financial assistance, as for someone to act as a good neighbor and help in forming plans. A visitor who has had special training has promised to act as friendly visitor and try and help the woman adjust her living expenses to her income.

Family came to the city about six months ago from Hamilton, husband having died from the "Flu," leaving mother with two small children. They occupied one small, over-crowded room, in a bad locality. Mother did charring and supported her little family. About two months ago she gave birth to little Jack. A few weeks later she was again forced to seek her daily bread, and applied to the Creche for work. Owing to her weak condition she was unable to secure enough light work to support herself and family. When referred to the N.W.A., she was in a destitute situation. Temporary help was secured and later an adequate allowance was given and supervised by one of the churches.

Family of six convalescing from "Flu." Husband out of work several weeks. Mother not strong. The income was \$75.00 per month and family were in arrears in their rent. Family asked for a small loan of money, with interest, to be paid back in small amounts. This loan was granted, without interest, and family have been able to wipe out their indebtedness and keep up with their payments on their loan.

In February, the case was reported of an old man living alone in a three-roomed, two-storey house, at the rear of another property. He was blind, and scarcely able to get about. The house was dirty; man not getting proper food, and was being generally neglected. His wife was ill in the Hospital, having undergone an operation. Through the kindness of a Woman's Association we were able to send milk daily and meat several times a week. A friendly visitor was also secured. With the rent obtained from the house fronting on the street, man obtains his groceries.

Mrs. A. (man's wife) was later discharged from the hospital and feeling that man was unkind to her, she went to stay with friends, being finally located by our friendly visitor. After much persuasion, she consented to return home. In the meantime, however, Mr. A. became ill and was later removed to a hospital, and while Mr. A. was receiving medical care, a nephew had the

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house thoroughly cleaned and redecorated. Mrs. A. returned home and welcomed her husband upon his discharge from the hospital. It was certainly a pleasant sight for our visitor when she called upon the now happy couple, some days ago; Mrs. A. was busy knitting socks and will do some light work until she is fully recovered. Our friendly visitor is arranging that some sisters will assist in supplying food.

## SOCIAL CASE WORK FOR THE YEAR

The Central Office acting as a clearing house for the Association, handled 773 Cases from September 1st, (when the case work as such began) to April 30th. These cases were referred out to the local organizations for supervision, relief and other forms of social treatment in co-operation with the Central Office.

New Cases.....	749
Out of Town .....	24
Total.....	773
Cases Closed .....	564
Carried Over .....	209

### SOURCES

Board of Education .....	55
Public Health Dept. ....	331
Hospitals .....	10
Churches .....	62
Other Social Agency .....	158
Private, Individual or Firm .....	115
From Family Itself.....	42

### TREATMENT

Pension.....	5
Loan .....	10
Relief given by C. O. direct..	61
Relief given by C. O. through Agency .....	75
Visits made at Request of C. O..	171
Direct Investigation.....	64
Referred to other Agency .....	263
Continued Co-operation and Supervision by other Agency	103
Advice and Direction Only....	153
Not found .....	14
Relief Secured from other Agency .....	161

### NATIONALITIES

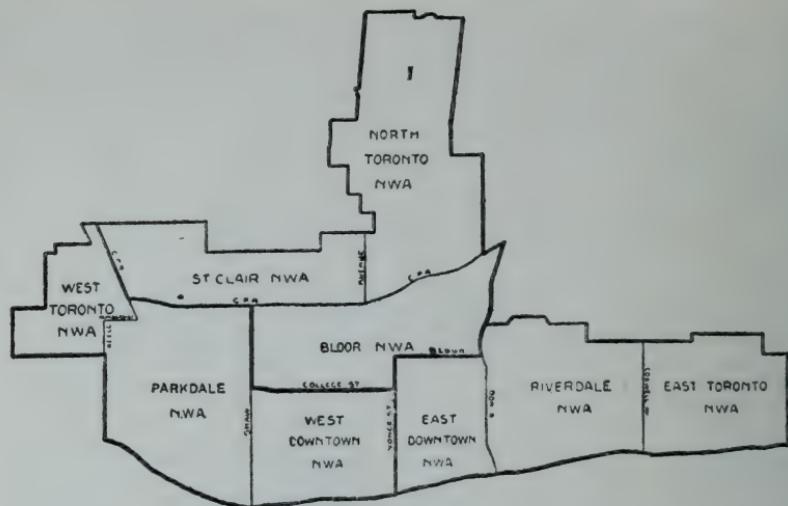
Canadian .....	186
English.....	277
Scotch.....	33
Irish .....	32
Unknown .....	188
Welsh .....	5
Spanish.....	1
British Possessions .....	6
American .....	10
Galician .....	1

Italian .....	11
Russian .....	9
Greek .....	1
Scandinavian .....	4
Dutch .....	2
Polish .....	1
Austrian .....	3
French .....	1
Macedonian .....	2

### DISABILITIES

1. Influenza and Pneumonia ..	181
2. Sickness of Bread Winner ..	6
3. Tuberculosis .....	35
4. Specific Diseases .....	5
5. Other Illness .....	175
6. Blindness .....	9
7. Other Physical Defects .....	30
8. Feeble-mindedness .....	21
9. Epilepsy .....	7
10. Insanity .....	6
11. Industrial Accident .....	1
12. Old Age .....	20
13. Intemperance .....	9
14. Begging .....	22
15. Shiftlessness .....	22
16. Sexual Immorality .....	12
17. Illegitimacy .....	14
18. Desertion .....	51
19. Non-Support .....	14
20. Domestic Incompetency .....	14
21. Domestic Infelicity .....	17
22. Unemployment .....	98
23. Unemployable .....	27
24. Low Wages .....	53
25. Imprisonment .....	15
26. Industrial Incompetency .....	10
27. Dependent Children .....	136
28. Bad Housing .....	14
29. Non-Adjusted Immigrant .....	3
30. Military Cases .....	92
31. Juvenile Delinquency .....	7

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## OFFICERS OF LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

### EAST DOWN TOWN

President—Rev. E. G. D. Freeman,  
95 Rose Ave.  
Secretary—Miss J. Leitch,  
504 Sherbourne St.  
Treasurer—Rev. Mr. Henderson,  
113 Maitland St.

### BLOOR

President—Rev. B. R. Strangways,  
92 Clinton St.  
Secretary—Miss M. Fleming,  
409 Ryrie Bldg..  
Treasurer—Miss G. Conger,  
221 Major St.

### WEST TORONTO

President—Rev. E. Morley,  
101 Colbeck St.  
Secretary—Rev. Mr. Ellison,  
641 Annette St.  
Treasurer—Miss Dove, Keele and  
Dundas Police Station.

### RIVERDALE

President—Rev. Dr. Seager,  
1a Langley Ave.  
Secretary—  
Treasurer—Mrs. Roworth,  
1 Shuddell.

### ST. CLAIR

President—Rev. Dr. Taylor,  
19 Ernscliffe Road.  
Secretary—Rev. E. J. McKittrick,  
269 Blackthorne.

Treasurer—Miss Wheeler,  
Markham and London.

### PARKDALE

President—Dr. Sturgeon Stewart,  
16 Thorold Ave.  
Secretary—Mrs. Medland,  
72 High Park Blvd.  
Treasurer—Mrs. Alex. McGee,  
3 Spencer Avenue.

### EAST TORONTO

President—Rev. G. I. B. Johnston,  
2188 Gerrard East.  
Secretary—Miss Mary G. Barr,  
42 Benlamond Ave.  
Treasurer—Mrs. J. Brady,  
43 Benlamond Ave.

### NORTH TORONTO

President—Mrs. Firstbrook,  
5 Glen Grove Ave.  
Secretary—Mrs. E. A. James,  
107 Alexander Blvd.  
Treasurer—Mrs. Marks,  
1345 Yonge St.

### WEST DOWN TOWN

President—Rev. J. E. Hunter,  
209 Crawford St.  
Secretary—Miss A. Cohen,  
254 McCaul St.  
Treasurer—Miss McKim,  
56 Elm St.

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## REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY Year Ending April 30th, 1919

The Report covers from June 1st, 1918, to April 30th, 1919, a period of eleven months. By action of the Executive it has been decided to make April 30th the end of the financial year, and this necessitates the report being presented at this time.

The past year has been a very crowded and busy one for the Neighborhood Workers Association. It has been a year of development, and a year of beginnings. The work had its inception in 1912 and its organization on the present basis in 1914. During the intervening years, much valuable work has been accomplished under great handicaps. The establishment of a Central office in June of last year is the accomplishment of a purpose long desired and urgently necessary. With this development the organization enters upon a new phase of its activities and is put in a position to be more widely useful than ever, in serving the community.

**OFFICE ORGANIZATION** The first year in the life of any office is always fraught with considerable difficulties. There are no precedents to guide and the office must create a procedure and way of handling business, which will meet the needs of the Organization which it serves. There are almost numberless details which have to be adjusted and decided, presenting possibilities of friction and misunderstanding.

Looking back upon the year, I feel that we have come through it remarkably well. There has been developed an Organization within the office which, while certainly capable of improvement, is yet meeting the needs of the organization as a whole. A filing system has been installed, and a set of records suitable for the cases handled through the Central Office, has been evolved. The General Secretary would like to express appreciation of the effective help afforded by Miss Mohr, in the formative period of the Office. Miss Snyder and Miss McPhedran have also rendered very valuable assistance in the working out of our present system of case records, as well as in many other matters. The financial affairs of the Office have been put on a business basis, and a thoroughly up-to-date system of bookkeeping which will lend itself readily to the strictest kind of auditing, has been adopted. The clerical side of the office work has been put on an efficient basis by Miss Collver who is in charge of this branch of the work. Miss E. Corbman and Miss M. Fleming have joined the staff as Case Secretaries and already show promise of being helpful and efficient workers.

There has been a very evident desire on the part of the affiliated organizations, to do everything possible to co-operate with the workers within the office in laying down an organization that would be effective. In this as in many other ways, the Health Department has been particularly helpful.

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As an asset to begin the second year's work, we have then, a well developed office system, and have gathered a staff who understand and are loyal to the ideals of the Organization and are eager to make further advances.

**DISTRICT ORGANIZATION** At the beginning of the year, four of the nine associations were not functioning very actively.

A real improvement has taken place and at the present time there is only one association which is really disorganized with no present hope of making itself effective. In this instance a good deal of patient work from the foundation up will be necessary, but I have every confidence that next winter we will be able to further strengthen the Organization throughout the city, and increase its capacity as a fighting force for the social good. One very hopeful feature of the situation lies in the fact that during the winter a number of organizations which co-operate actively and not simply formally, has been largely increased. Much work of this kind remains to be done, as there are still many organizations and individuals who need to be converted from passive to active membership. The progress already made in this direction has been most encouraging.

**PUBLICATIONS** During the year a Social Service Directory has been published, a pamphlet dealing with the Federation for Community Service, a card and also a four-page folder dealing with the work and organization of the N.W.A. The Social Service Directory, in spite of some obvious imperfections and a few regrettable errors, has been a very useful publication and there has been a very active demand for it.

In accordance with the request of a large number of those who found the Social Service Directory serviceable, a new issue will be published next Fall, containing somewhat fuller information and making the necessary changes. A committee composed of Mr. Robert E. Mills, Rev. M. C. MacLean, and the General Secretary, has been appointed to supervise this new issue.

The pamphlet on Federation outlines the history of the Federation movement and the relation of the Neighborhood Workers' Association thereto, and has been very helpful in making clear the purpose of the Federation.

During the year, a committee of the Council has secured matter for the Social Background Department of the Public Health Journal. It has been difficult at times to get material, owing to the pressure of work resting upon those who must prepare the articles, but in spite of these difficulties, no issue has been without some matter under this section.

In the coming year it is the intention to publish a series of short pamphlets dealing specifically with some of the more pressing of Toronto's social problems. It is most important that attention should be focused upon specific things and the social forces of the city rallied to secure constructive action.

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### HOUSING REPORT

At the request of Prof. C. B. Sissons, Secretary, Ontario Housing Commission, the N.W.A. undertook to collect data in regard to the social aspects of housing. The material thus collected was embodied in a chapter in the Report published by the Commission. In the collection of this matter the Nursing Division of the Public Health Department rendered valuable services.

In the early part of the winter when the fuel shortage was very acute and the city was faced with an extremely serious situation, a Committee of the Central Council prepared a report dealing with the situation. The recommendations of the Committee were not accepted and the mildness of the winter and the cessation of the war totally changed the fuel situation. But the fact remains that the report embodied one of the few constructive suggestions that had been made for handling this situation.

### CHILD WELFARE

During the winter, the General Secretary and other members of the Central Council spent a great deal of time and energy in the organization of the Child Welfare Council. There are some 57 organizations in the city, touching some phase of Child Welfare work, and the Council will serve as a meeting-place for the discussion of these problems. During the winter, not only has organization been completed, but the Council has begun to function, and concrete results of value are beginning to show themselves. This Council will, from present appearances, take an active place in the social life of the city, and will fulfill a very useful function.

This work of helping to initiate organizations or to develop existing organizations to meet new needs, is directly along the line of the work of the N.W.A.

The N.W.A. is also co-operating with the Child Welfare Council and other bodies, in helping to organize a Child Welfare Week. Another aspect of Child Welfare Work was the placing of children in Fresh Air Camps last summer through the Central Office. These were not listed as Cases in any sense, but were simply one of the ways in which the N.W.A. fulfilled its function as a clearing house and meeting-place for the need and the organization to meet the need. The distribution of the Santa Claus boxes was also made last Christmas through the N.W.A. district organizations.

The Central Council have also endeavored to further the Movement, looking towards the establishment of a Child Welfare Bureau in connection with the Children's Aid Society. Our efforts in this regard have met with very little success, but this is one of the objects which the organization must keep steadily in view. If at all possible the Bureau should be organized under the direction of the Children's Aid Society. If this is found to be impossible the Bureau must in any case be established.

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In regard to the movement for Mothers' Pensions, it is pleasing to note that the Committee which issued such an excellent report dealing with this matter, a report which made the matter concrete and definite and put it within the realm of practical politics, had its origin in the Central Council. The Committee itself soon enlarged its scope, taking in the Trades and Labor Council and other bodies outside the N.W.A., and ceased therefore, to be a Committee of the Central Council. The President, however, of our Central Council has continued to be the Chairman of this Committee and has guided the movement with great skill and success. While the hoped for goal was not attained this winter, there is every possibility that the next session of the legislature will see this much-needed law placed upon the Statute Book.

**SOCIAL CASE WORK** The Central Office was only in the position to handle cases from the 1st of September. During the period of 8 months in which this was a part of our work, 773 cases were handled through the Central Office. The needs of these cases were met according to the N.W.A. system, and the local organizations have co-operated most heartily with the Central Office in not only meeting the needs of these families from the standpoint of relief, but also doing that patient, personal type of work upon them which is necessary in order to stimulate the resources of the family itself in the way of self-help. It will be noted that a very large percentage of the cases were due to illness, a large number having fallen into distress owing to the epidemic. In a very considerable number of cases these families had never had to seek relief before and help had to be afforded in the most tactful and kindly way.

A tabulated statistical statement of these cases is found elsewhere, and a careful study of these will reveal a considerable number of the social problems of the city. A remarkably small percentage of the cases were due to intemperance, and while there are many factors to be taken into account, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the passage of the Ontario Temperance Act has had a remarkably beneficial effect in the reduction of that type of poverty which springs from intemperance. Only 9 of the 749 families (as far as could be learned) had the handicap of intemperance.

The report on these cases is not to be confused with the work carried on during the epidemic. The families helped at that time are not tabulated here nor are these cases included in the number of families listed as being helped during the epidemic. The two reports have been kept distinct. 331 of the 749 families were referred to the Central Office through the Nursing Division of the Public Health Department. The very closest co-operation exists between the District Superintendents and the nurses on the one hand, and the Central Office and affiliated organizations on the

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other. This close team work has resulted in benefit to the families to advance whose interests both organizations exist.

**INFLUENZA RELIEF WORK**      This work was initiated October 16th, and continued for about a month.

There were 27 N.W.A. Food and Supply Depots opened. These were all working in close co-operation with the Central Office. To each of these was assigned a district and as the names of families were reported to the Central Office, these were referred out to the local centres. 1,876 families are listed at the Central Office as having been helped through the Relief Depots.

The Central Office also co-operated in securing supplies necessary to operate the local centres. More than 5,000 articles of clothing and bedding were distributed from the Central Office. A great corps of volunteer workers rendered splendid services. About 800 of these workers were engaged upon this relief work, most of them working entirely without remuneration.

The Women's Patriotic League, the North Toronto Patriotic League, the Women's Liberal Association, the Jewish Council of Women, Independent Order of Daughters of the Empire (First, the St. George Chapter, and later, the Municipal Chapter), a great corps of Toronto Public and High School teachers, the High Park Soldiers' Comforts Club, the Y.W.C.A. and a large number of workers from the various churches, formed this army of community service workers. Boy Scouts and Girl Guides ran messages and delivered the prepared foods, while many private citizens placed their automobiles at the disposal of the N.W.A. for this work. The magnitude of the work may be seen from the fact that 6,693 quarts of food were prepared at the Technical High School alone.

There were two direct results of the epidemic; one was to leave a trail of distress and poverty which the Organization has had to cope with all winter. The other result has been to engender a much warmer spirit of co-operation among the workers who went through the task of fighting the "flu." The end of the epidemic left us with an organization much better fitted to cope with the ordinary problems of relief, due to the new interest aroused in social work among the many women who took part in this anti-flu campaign. As relief work was subsidiary to the health problem, the N.W.A. considered itself under the orders of the Health Department in this instance, and filled, without question, requisitions made by nurse and doctor for almost every conceivable thing that would help them in their work.

The epidemic brought a number of people in touch with social conditions in the city, and awakened a desire in them to further help in making Toronto a safer and more wholesome city, from the social standpoint. The group of ladies who operated the High Park Relief Depot have, during the winter, formed themselves into the High Park Social Service Club. The Central Office and the

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Parkdale N.W.A. have co-operated heartily in the formation of this club which has already become a helpful addition to the social forces of the city.

### **FINANCE**

The financial statement is presented separately.

The Report presented by the Treasurer, covering the expenditures for the past eleven months is a very gratifying one. The Association has been entrusted with the funds necessary to carry out some important tasks.

It should be noted that the report presented, takes in only those expenditures properly chargeable to the N.W.A. A considerable part of the expenses of the Office are chargeable to Federation, and have been met from the Rotary Club Federation Organization Fund.

### **FEDERATION MOVEMENT**

From its inception in the city, the N.W.A. has given its whole-hearted support to the Federation movement. When the report by the Bureau of Municipal Research entitled "Toronto Gives" was issued, the N.W.A. through its Executive and Council gave very careful consideration to this matter and took the initiative in calling a general meeting on December 27, 1917, in which the movement was launched. Our President, Rev. Peter Bryce, presided over that and later meetings, and rendered inestimable service in getting the movement under way.

Since that time the Association has given the Federation unswerving support and for the past year, during the organization period, the General Secretary has devoted a large part of his time to this work. The offices have been joint offices for both organizations, an arrangement which will cease now with the opening of the Federation Offices.

The N.W.A. is not in any sense claiming that the Federation was due to its efforts. The initiation of the movement began with the Bureau of Municipal Research and the Rotary Club has for the past year, also worked upon the proposition with great enthusiasm and effectiveness. A Federation is only possible by a co-operation of the business and social forces of the city. The N.W.A. has supplied this latter very necessary element.

### **TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS**

The Central Council decided upon the organization of a Training School for Neighborhood Workers under the conviction that there were a large number of social workers in the city who were anxious to make themselves more efficient in their work and who would thus welcome the opportunity of listening to the experience of others in regard to problems which all meet.

The school held its sessions on Friday afternoons from 4 to 5.30 in St. James Parish Hall. There were 8 meetings and 15 addresses given. Fourteen leaders of the N.W.A. work in the city

## NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS ASSOCIATION

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gave these addresses and there was time allotted for discussion of the problems raised. The average attendance for the 8 meetings was 106. Fifty certificates of regular attendance were issued.

In the discussion which took place at the closing session, hearty approval was expressed by those present, of the conception and organization of the school and the hope was voiced that next year something of the kind would be put on again. In the opinion of the General Secretary, very careful thought should be given to this matter with the idea not simply of imitating what has been done this year, but through study of what has been done in other centres, to develop a course that would be more thorough and adequate. It may be possible to work out the discussion idea further and possibly to break up the course into smaller groups. This whole matter should be carefully considered by the Executive at an early meeting in the Fall.

In conclusion the General Secretary would like to express his deep appreciation of the splendid spirit which exists in the Central Council and local organizations, a spirit of loyalty and co-operation, of enthusiasm for the common task. This alone has made possible the real advance of the past year. The members of the staff in the Central Office have also shown devotion and energy to the great purposes of the Organization. At certain periods during the year this has involved real sacrifices.

Perhaps the General Secretary might be pardoned if he refers especially to the work of our retiring President, Rev. Peter Bryce. His sanity of judgment and general grasp of the situation, and the high esteem in which he has been held, have been extremely valuable assets in the important period of building up through which the organization has passed during the past year. After three years as President of the Association, Mr. Bryce has felt impelled to retire. This has caused very general regret, but it is a matter of congratulation that he will still be associated with the work in the position of Honorary President. The Executive will make sure that this is not purely an honorary position and will seek his counsel and assistance in some of the large matters which still rest upon the organization as unfinished tasks.

What has been done should be regarded simply as the laying down of a basis for more effective work in the future. The opportunity and the need are here. The longest section of this report would be one which would tabulate the unfinished tasks. But while much remains to be done, it is certainly true that the Organization has strengthened very largely its powers of service and in the future may be entrusted to take a worthy part in the building up of a more humane social order in this greathearted splendid City of Toronto.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

F. N. STAPLEFORD,  
General Secretary.

## ANNUAL REPORT

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### TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS

The School was organized with a view of giving training to workers in the city engaged in family visitation work. The enrollment was about equally divided between professional and volunteer workers, attached to the various city organizations. There were eight sessions of the School and the average attendance at each session was 106.

#### **March 7th (1)**

- (a) The Approach to the Home. Visitation—Rev. Peter Bryce, Pres., Central Council N.W.A.
- (b). Conditions Met in Visiting. The Family Background—Miss Vera Parsons, Central Neighborhood House.

#### **March 14th (2)**

- (a) The Essentials of an Adequate Investigation—Miss Mary McPhedran, Central Office N.W.A.
- (b). Causes of Poverty — F. N. Stapleford, General Secretary.

#### **March 21st (3)**

- (a) Sources of Information Regarding the Family. The Confidential Exchange—Miss O. M. Snyder, Central Office N.W.A.
- (b). Sickness and Poverty—Miss E. Dyke, Department of Public Health.

#### **March 28th (4)**

- (a) Toronto's Social Resources—Robert E. Mills, Department of Public Health.
- (b). Illegitimacy, Immorality and Poverty—Rev. E. G. D. Freeman, President East Down Town N.W.A.

#### **April 4th (5)**

- (a) Principles of Relief. Private versus Public Relief—Rev. P. J. Bench, Superintendent Catholic Charities.
- (b). Unemployment and Poverty—Rev. J. N. Miller, Supt. Toronto Gov't. Employment Bureau.

#### **April 11th (6)**

- (a) The Value of Records in Social Work—Mrs. Fraser, Central Neighborhood House.
- (b). Desertion and Widowhood and Poverty—Mrs. Mutch, Presbyterian Women's S.S. Association.

#### **April 17th (7)**

- (a) Value of the Case Conference—Rev. M. C. MacLean, Director Memorial Institute.
- (b). Low Wages and Poverty—Rev. Archer Wallace, M.A.

#### **April 25th (8)**

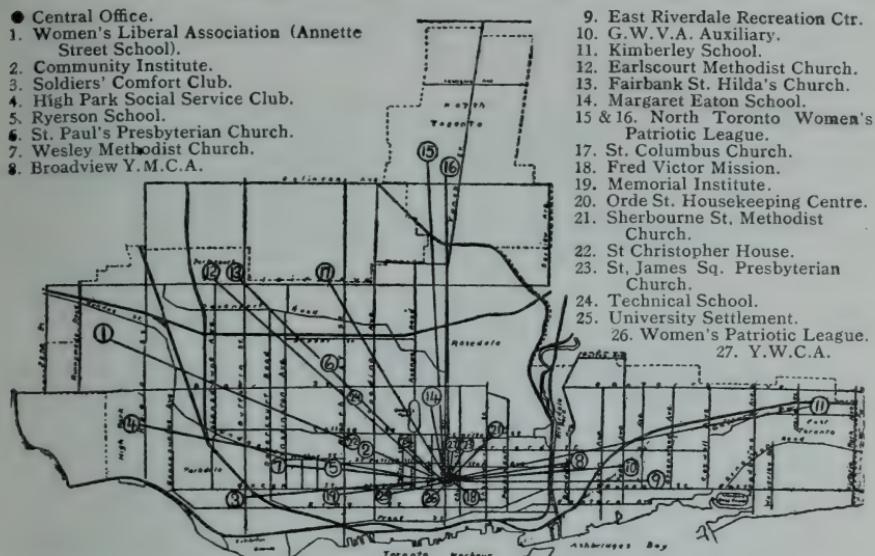
- Organization Ideals and Program of the Neighborhood Workers Association—F. N. Stapleford, General Secretary.

*"Scientific Social Work is a programme of radical and rational reconstruction based upon an adequate knowledge of social facts."*

# NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS ASSOCIATION

## N.W.A. Food and Relief Depots open during the Epidemic

- Central Office.
- 1. Women's Liberal Association (Annette Street School).
- 2. Community Institute.
- 3. Soldiers' Comfort Club.
- 4. High Park Social Service Club.
- 5. Ryerson School.
- 6. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.
- 7. Wesley Methodist Church.
- 8. Broadview Y.M.C.A.



## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY ASSOCIATION DURING THE EPIDEMIC

Relief Depots for distribution of liquid food, bedding, etc.....	27
Number of families supplied.....	1,876
Contributions to Central Office (other than money)	
Articles of Clothing.....	1,529
Pieces of Bedding.....	1,782
Pneumonia Jackets.....	665
Masks.....	100
20 Packages of used clothing.	

### Distributed from Central Office.

Articles of Clothing.....	2,291
Pieces of Bedding.....	2,744
Masks.....	100
Pneumonia Jackets.....	665
Miscellaneous Articles.....	298
Total.....	6,098

Many of the Centres received and distributed contributions of clothing and bedding in addition to that which was assigned to them from the Central Office.

The regular N.W.A. workers were reinforced by a large number of volunteer workers. In connection with the various depots and at the Central Office there were about 800 engaged on this relief work.

At the Technical School, the largest of these centres, 6,693 quarts of liquid food alone were prepared.

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS' ASSOCIATION

**Revenue Account for the Eleven Months Ending 30th April, 1919**

### INCOME

#### **Subscriptions—**

General .....	\$6,412.82
Board of Trade Influenza Fund (received through Federation for Community Ser.)	8,270.50
	—————
	\$14,683.32
Sale of Supplies .....	\$379.74
Grant from Rotary Club for Organization Expenses to date (received through Federation for Community Service)	287.16
	—————
	\$15,350.22

### EXPENDITURE

#### **Relief—**

Direct—Cash Donations .....	\$1,927.93
Provision for Non-Payment of Loans to Families for Relief .....	100.00
Food .....	2,631.59
Clothing .....	623.33
Bedding .....	695.05
Fuel .....	170.50
Rents paid .....	255.25
Nursing and Household As- sistance .....	315.89
Medical and Surgical Sup- plies and Attendance .....	55.87
Hospital and Institutional Maintenance .....	64.50
Optical Supplies .....	17.40
Unclassified .....	139.99
	—————
	\$6,997.26

Indirect—Grants to Earlscourt Centre .....	\$333.45
Grants to Fairbank Anglican Church .....	132.71
Grant to Women's Patriotic League .....	100.00
	—————
	\$566.16
	—————
	\$7,563.42

#### **Expenses—**

Salaries—Secretary .....	\$1,383.32
Clerks and Stenographers ..	1,099.92
Social Workers .....	2,594.90
	—————
	\$5,078.14

#### **General—**

Expenses—Rent .....	\$520.00
Stationery and Office Sup...	584.66
Telephone .....	150.20
Postage .....	132.01
Advertising .....	155.30
Educational Literature and Publicity Material .....	111.18
Depreciation of Equipment ..	114.97
Travelling Expenses .....	68.74
Unclassified .....	179.29
	—————
	\$2,016.35
	—————
	\$7,094.49
	—————
	\$14,657.91

# NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS ASSOCIATION

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## SURPLUS

Excess of Income over Expenditure.....	692.31
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NOTE:—During the period under Review, the Association's Staff and office were jointly used by the Federation for Community Service and it has consequently been necessary to allocate the expenses between the two bodies. The above expenses are the net amounts, after charging the Federation with its proportion.

MRS. N. BROCK WILKINS, Treasurer.

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# NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS ASSOCIATION

## Balance Sheet as at 30th April, 1919

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets—

Cash and Bank Balances.....	\$732.51
Accounts Receivable.....	\$148.54
Less Provision for Bad Debts.....	100.00
	<hr/>
	\$48.54
	<hr/>
	\$781.05

#### Prepaid Expenses—

Equipment:	\$100.00
Cost.....	\$1,149.75
Less Provision for Depreciation.....	114.97
	<hr/>
	\$1,034.78
	<hr/>
	\$1,915.83

### LIABILITIES

Sundry Accounts Payable .....	\$1,223.52
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## SURPLUS

Excess of Assets over Liabilities.....	692.31
	<hr/>
	\$1,915.83

I have audited the accounts of the Neighborhood Workers Association (Central Council) for the eleven months ending 30th April, 1919, and in my opinion the above Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the Association's affairs as at 30th April, 1919. I have verified the expenditures as shown by the attached Revenue Account.

TORONTO, 9th May, 1919.

FRANK G. SHORT, C.A.,  
of J. P. Langley & Company,  
Chartered Accountants.

MRS. N. BROCK WILKINS, Treasurer.

## ANNUAL REPORT

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### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE RE LIGHTING AND POLICING OF PARKS**

**Submitted to Central Council of N.W.A. May 13th, 1919.**

Your committee appointed to consider the better lighting and regulation of Parks in the City, begs to report as follows :—

1. The great need of better lighting and policing of the Parks of our City is evidenced by the statements obtained by your committee from the morality department of the City as well as from the Big Sister Association, the W.C.T.U., the Girls' Protective League, the Toronto General and Base Hospitals and the residents living adjacent to the Parks. There appears to be a particular need of some action regarding all Toronto's parks, as well as all the small wooded and unlighted and unpoliced Islands and sections of our Island Parks, and the Beaches and outlying districts adjacent to street railway terminals.

2. Directly bearing upon this important question, your Committee desires to call especial attention to the very remarkable report prepared at the Toronto Base Hospital under the direction and personal supervision of Captains Doctors Gordon Bates, D. T. Fraser and Morris McPhedran, on the social aspect of the Venereal Disease problems. Among the many startling revelations made in this report were the facts that out of a total of 374 cases of venereal disease investigated at this Hospital, 199 of them were definitely known to have been contracted in Toronto and of which 119 cases of infection took place out of doors, 21 of which took place in High Park, 11 in Queen's Park and a large number in Riverdale Park Centre Island and Hanlan's Point, while many were traced to automobiles, trains and boats. The said report while dealing only with statistics at the Base Hospital, raises one of the most serious and alarming problems with which social workers must grapple in the very near future.

3. The following information was received from Miss Knisely of the Toronto General Hospital among the unmarried mothers whose children were born at the Burnside Home, during the year, May 1918-1919, 8 admitted that their immorality was committed in our poorly lighted parks, details being as follows:—

Miss A. aged 20 years, in Belwood Park.

(Miss A. acknowledged that she was one of a group of 8 girls who frequented the Parks for immoral purposes).

Miss B. aged 25, in a poorly lighted street in North Toronto.

Miss C. aged 16, at Island Park.

Miss D. aged 23, at High Park.

Miss E. aged 26, at Island Park.

Miss F. aged 21, at High Park.

Miss G. aged 15, at High Park.

Miss H. aged 20, at High Park.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WORKERS ASSOCIATION

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These returns are incomplete so far as the Toronto General Hospital is concerned but are serious enough to call for action.

4. Your committee would therefore recommend that this matter be brought to the attention of the proper authorities by a strong and representative deputation composed of the various social workers organizations and ministerial associations, with the urgent request that immediate action be taken to more thoroughly light the Parks and places referred to and appoint special police to thoroughly patrol these resorts and thus prevent as far as possible the immorality that has existed in past seasons and which it is feared will be materially increased because of the many unemployed in the surrounding districts.

5. It is also recommended that the police be requested to take special action with a view to ameliorating the alarming conditions prevailing as a result of large numbers of men driving automobiles into which are invited young girls who are often driven away, it is believed, for immoral purposes. Many of these automobiles have been followed to outlying districts and found parked in quiet spots or near parks or woods.

6. It is further recommended that the city be requested with the co-operation of the social workers' organizations interested, to take up with the police commissioners the advisability of having special supervision of the various street railway terminals, especially where they make connection with suburban lines, to prevent improper appointments or trips into the adjoining districts for immoral purposes.

7. It is further recommended that this association give its earnest co-operation and support to the Girls' Protective League and the Big Sister Association in their work in the interests of girls, especially in securing volunteer women patrols which have accomplished so much on the streets of the city and in the Parks during the past season. All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) M. C. MACLEAN.

(Signed) S. STEWART,  
Chairman of Committee.

*"Scientific Social Work is community work undertaken by the community for the community."*





